



Methamphetamine Task Force
Meeting minutes
February 25, 2009

Summary

Methamphetamine Task Force Members Present (14):

Honorable Barbara LaWall (Pima County Attorney, Chair)
Karen Bulkeley for Aimee Amado (Arizona Families F.I.R.S.T., Arizona Department of Economic Security)
Anthony Coulson (Assistant Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration)
Billie Grobe (Chief Probation Officer, Yavapai County)
Brant Benham for Brian Wilcox (Narcotics and Organized Crime Bureau, Arizona Department of Public Safety)
Carol Chicharello (AHCCCS, Tribal Relations Liaison)
Dean Wright (Compliance Officer, Arizona State Board of Pharmacy)
Jane Irvine (Director, Community Outreach and Education, Arizona Attorney General's Office)
Kathy Karam (Program Manager, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission)
Rich Rosky (HIDTA Coordinator, NMCI Southwest Meth Initiative)
Terry Rozema (Commander, Pima County/Tucson Metropolitan Counter Narcotics Alliance)
Michelle Skurka for Tracy Hastings (Lead Substance Abuse Clinical Advisor, Arizona Department of Health Services)
Steve Tyrrell (Program Manager, Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts)
Warren Koontz (Inter Tribal Council)

Members Absent (10):

Commander Mike Parra (Phoenix Police Department)
Don Stapley (County Supervisor, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors)
Hope McDonald Lonetree (Councilwoman, 20th Navajo Nation Council)
John Dempsey (Chief Administrator, Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections)
Kathy Rice (Prevention Education Specialist, Arizona Department of Education)
Len Ditmanson, MD. (Medical Director, COPE Behavioral services)
Pat Benchik (Executive Director, COPE Behavioral Services)
Sylvia Homer (Colorado River Indian Tribe Methamphetamine Coalition)
Scott Cocuzza (Business and Community Member)
Steve Schieman (Investigations Officer, Target Corporation)

Public members (11):

Jim Copple (SAI)
Kim Dalfries (SAI)
Chad K. Johns (Florida Office of Drug Control)
Jeff Beasley (Florida Fusion Center)
Briana Kreibich (GOCYF – Division for Substance Abuse Policy)
Jeanne Blackburn (GOCYF- Division for Substance Abuse Policy)
Keri Raichert (GOCYF-Division for Substance Abuse Policy)
Kim O'Connor (GOCYF – Division for Substance Abuse Policy)
La Tanya King (GOCYF- Division for Substance Abuse Policy)

Morgan Hester (GOCYF- Division for Substance Abuse Policy)
Tonya Hamilton (GOCYF- Division for Substance Abuse Policy)
Leticia Mendoza (GOCYF – Division for Substance Abuse Policy)
Albert Crespo (GOCYF – Division for Substance Abuse Policy)
Bob Irish (Arizona Board of Technical Registration)
Lisa Varidan (Arizona Board of Technical Registration)
Sarah Brichler (Pima Prevention Partnership)
Lori Deutsch (MATForce)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Barbara LaWall called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairwoman LaWall welcomed members and asked the group to introduce themselves. Ms. LaWall thanked members for all of their efforts.

APPROVAL OF 9-25-08 MINUTES

Chairwoman LaWall called members attention to the minutes. Members reviewed the minutes; Mr. Anthony Coulson motioned to approve the minutes, and Ms. Billie Grobe seconded the motion. The motion was carried with no objections.

OVERVIEW OF THE REVISED QUARTERLY REPORT

Ms. LaWall referred to Mr. Copple to lead this agenda item.

Mr. Copple provided a brief background of the Meth Task Force's development of recommendations. Mr. Copple noted the initial priorities identified for the original strategic plan and commended members and their respective agencies on their rigorous reporting.

Mr. Copple noted several methamphetamine trends local to Arizona, additionally commenting on several national trends.

Mr. Copple provided guidance on how the reporting process will be modified. He called attention to the EAB as a model for future planning, stating that the Meth Task Force would be mimicking this ASAP model. He stated that team leaders would be identified, rather than the "silo" approach to identifying specific agencies to address particular recommendations and action steps. He stated that this modified approach will allow for a more transparent process, less demanding reporting process, and promotes horizontal collaboration. Mr. Copple referred to Ms. Kreibich regarding the development and follow-up of recommendation five, referring members to the document found in packets.

ACCESS TO RECOVERY GRANT

Ms. Tonya Hamilton provided an overview and brief background of the Access To Recovery Grant. She referred members to overview document found in packets. Ms. Hamilton provided information on the modification to the original proposal of the grant, stating that COPE Community Alliance will be stepping up to administer the grant in Pima County. She provided a brief overview of the federal site visit. Ms. Hamilton noted that the State will be expanding to two additional courts by mid-March, in addition to providing information on grant successes, challenges, and next steps. Of the next steps, includes a carryover request to spend grant funding on a pilot project. Ms. LaWall commended Tonya for her efforts, along with Mr. Coulson, noting the power of the collaboration of the Meth Task Force.

METHAMPHETAMINE SUMMIT

Ms. Briana Kreibich provided an overview of the Methamphetamine Summit, hosted by SAMHSA. She noted the focus on addressing the needs of critical populations. Ms. Kreibich commented that Arizona's 12 member state team was able to develop the beginning stages of the state plan to better address the issues surrounding methamphetamine. She referred members to the beginning stages of the strategic plan that the State team had developed...

Ms. Kreibich noted that she would send out the electronic version of the draft strategic plan to the group, requesting the feedback of members.

Mr. Copple provided background information on the summit on how the critical populations were identified. Mr. Copple commended Arizona for the receipt of the award to participate, Arizona's work on the issue, and Dr. O'Connor's presentation regarding Arizona's... Mr. Copple also noted the future opportunity for resources.

In responding to Ms. LaWall's question, Dr. O'Connor noted definitions would be sent out to the group operationalizing the critical populations. She also noted the importance of the Meth Task Force's input and the benefits of learning from other states.

ARIZONA SUBSTANCE ABUSE PARTNERSHIP

Ms. Morgan Hester provided an update on the activities of the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP), noting achievements in the four strategic focus areas, and noted that ASAP had chosen four new strategic focus areas for 2009: Underage Drinking, Prescription Drugs, DEC and Marketing/Media Campaigns. She noted that Meth Task Force members would be called upon for input. Ms. Hester provided status updates on the four strategic areas, noting successes and next steps. She highlighted the Tribal Drug Endangered Children Training Workshop. Ms. Hester also highlighted the application

submitted by Arizona for the prescription drug monitoring program, commenting on Mr. Dean Wright.

Ms. Jeanne Blackburn provided an overview of the snapshot document, referring members to a document outlining several highlights from the snapshot. Ms. Blackburn noted the broad focus areas of the snapshot, in addition emerging trends specific to Arizona. She commented on the meth seizures, meth labs, and the increased prevalence of heroin use in Arizona. Ms. Blackburn provided information to the group regarding the data sources for the snapshot. Mr. Copple noted the importance to recognize and call attention to the increase in prevalence of heroin. In responding to a question, Ms. Blackburn noted the challenges associated with tracking prescription drug abuse. Dr. O'Connor recommended that members look for the document in full when it is released, as the snapshot provides valuable information, especially as it pertains specifically to county.

Mr. Copple noted the importance of addressing specific population, age 20-30. Mr. Coulson confirmed the importance in calling attention the increase in prevalence of heroin, relaying specifics regarding seizure rates. He also noted the challenge of the difference in trafficking patterns and having a different informant base associated with heroin. Mr. Coulson provided specifics on the types of heroin that seem to be prevalent. Mr. Rosky noted the relationship between trends in prescription drug abuse and the increased prevalence of heroin. Mr. Coulson confirmed this, stating the increase in methadone overdoses and doctors may be prescribing methadone without all of the necessary training. Mr. Copple noted the importance of also addressing community impact and not only focusing on the direct individual impact.

INTRODUCTION OF FLORIDA ODCP

Chairwoman LaWall noted the importance of sharing best practices between states. Ms. LaWall introduced guests from Florida to provide an overview of Florida's efforts. Mr. Copple noted that Florida's strategic plan is data driven and built upon accountability measures.

Mr. Johns provided members with website information, should members choose to follow-up to receive additional information. He notes that within the ODCP office, staff are comprised of different backgrounds are affiliated with different agencies. Mr. Johns commented that a workgroup was formed to address methamphetamine. He stated that this workgroup researched the models of other states and developed a strategic plan with clear cut goals and measurable objectives with task force members representing enforcement, treatment, DEC, and environmental. Mr. Johns stated that the workgroup has both accomplishments, and acknowledges challenges and areas to address. He noted one of the challenges being not mandatory for all counties to report out. He communicated that statewide drug threat assessment is currently being developed.

Mr. Johns referred to Mr. Beasley to provide further comment. He noted the significant gaps, including HIDTA centers in metropolitan areas, and that limited data available in rural counties. Mr. Beasley noted that a focus area is mediating, facilitators, bringing stakeholders together. He stated that he has been the statewide lead...he stated that essentially there will be two products...he stated that for the assessment, significant intelligence will be called upon, 80 to 100 multi-jurisdictional task forces state wide. He stated that they are specifically going out to communities to do interviews. Mr. Beasley stated that ultimately 300 plus agencies will be interviewed to get the full picture in establishing the threat assessment. He stated that the idea is to be a resource driven document. He communicated that it is an ambitious and comprehensive plan, inclusive of all types of drugs. He noted that DTOs are even more powerful because of the slump in the housing market. He provided specific information to number of meth labs, seizure rates, and cost. He noted that the corridor is generally through Texas, yet it is the same meth seen in Arizona. Mr. Beasley provided information regarding trafficking routes and where the vulnerability lies. In responding to question regarding methamphetamine trafficking, he states it is heavy in Atlanta. In responding to question regarding pseudoephedrine, he stated that it also remains behind the counter, controlled. He stated that importation of meth supports the statewide problem, and not necessarily the domestic labs.

Mr. Johns noted a failure regarding establishing a remediation statute, that financially it doesn't make sense. In terms of successes, the law enforcement subgroup is a marked success. Mr. Copple noted the increased coordination among SPF SIG sub grantees and that there is increased communication and reporting from coalitions. Mr. Beasley noted that the strategy of bringing law enforcement together, with multidisciplinary groups, collaborating with coalitions have proved to be successful. It is important in that communities tend to have different trends, and important in identifying target specific group. Multidisciplinary approach is important in terms of limited resources. Mr. Copple noted that the Medical Examiners report is important in terms of the type of data provided and the value and use the data. Mr. Beasley noted that poly drug use is the trend among overdose, in accordance with the medical examiners report. He stated that there are approximately 9,000 drug related deaths annually...roughly 30 different substances addressed in the ME report. The state sees this report as a critical tool.

Mr. Beasley stated that essentially there will be two products. Law Enforcement data statewide, no gaps, and then the state will overlay additional data sources. Assessment is anticipated to be out November 1, 2009. Ms. Grobe asked how the data will be disseminated to local communities; Mr. Beasley mentioned that the data will be funneled to workgroups, coalitions, task forces, etc. The intention is to focus on specific areas once the full assessment is developed.

Ms. LaWall thanked Florida guest for their attendance and information.

Mr. Coulson provided information on recent notification that Mexican military arrested an individual attempting to smuggle 1,134 kilos heroin.

ANTI- METHAMPHETAMINE COALITION UPDATE

Ms. Lori Deutsch from the Yavapai County MATForce provided an overview of the MATForce, Youth Count Coalition. She provided information regarding funding sources, the structure of the coalition, including executive committee, steering committee, workgroups. Ms. Deutsch referred members to the document reflecting the coalition's structure, goals, and action steps. She provided further information regarding the activities and responsibilities of the workgroups. Workgroups include Partners in Prevention, Community Outreach, Intervention Model, and Underage Drinking. She noted that additional tasks for 2009, address emerging trends reflected in the 2008 AYS.

Ms. Grobe noted the focus on evidenced based practice, providing examples of trainings the coalition hosts for treatment providers, adult probation provides motivational interviewing training, peer coaching. Ms. Grobe referred members to pamphlet titled "Addiction: Reasons For Hope".

Ms. Deutsch noted the emerging trend of prescription drug abuse and the coalition's efforts addressing the trend. She described a "dump the drugs" event, amounts collected, and the ability to speak to community members regarding risks associated with prescription drug abuse. She closed by referring members to the coalition's schedule of activities. She noted the 8 percent drop in felony crime within their county as a success. In response to Mr. Coulson's question, Ms. Deutsch stated that there tends to be pockets in the county, as opposed to one specific area that they experience high drug use. Mr. Koontz asked how the coalition collaborates with tribes. Ms. Grobe noted a tribe in Verde Valley the coalition partners with; however they would like to expand their collaboration. Ms. Grobe recognized the limited resources of the Tribal entities.

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

Chairwoman LaWall thanked members, presenters, staff and Mr. Copple. Ms. LaWall announced the next meeting date as May 21, 2009.

CALL TO PUBLIC

Ms. LaWall made a call to the there were no responses.

ADJOURN

Chairwoman LaWall adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.